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## DOCUMENTS

### 1. *George Rogers Clark and the Kaskaskia Campaign, 1777-1778.*

THE transcripts of the following documents are kindly furnished by Secretary Thwaites, of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, from the George Rogers Clark papers in the extensive Draper collection. This collection includes more important material, among the documents being the original of Clark's Memoir. From the original documents of a single year a few have been selected to show the kind of material on which Clark based his Memoir, and are of value, therefore, not only in the detail which they furnish for our understanding of the campaign, but also in the light they cast upon the authority of the Memoir itself.

Attention may be called to the use which was made of this collection in the paper on "Western State-Making in the Revolutionary Era," published in the first volume of the *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*. In the *Report of the American Historical Association* for 1895 were reprinted many documents from the same collection bearing upon the relations between George Rogers Clark and Genet. The present installment deals principally with the conditions immediately preceding and following the capture of Kaskaskia in 1778. In the *REVIEW* for October, 1895, I. 90, were published the intercepted letters and journal of George Rogers Clark, 1779, from the Canadian archives.

FREDERICK J. TURNER.

### I. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK TO [PATRICK HENRY?] <sup>1</sup>

*Sir*— According to promise I haste to give you a description of the town of Kuskuskies, and my plan for taking of it. It is situated 30 leagues above the mouth of the Ohio, on a river of its own name, five miles from its mouth and two miles east of the Mississippi. On the west side of the Mississippi 3 miles from Kuskuskies is the village of Mozier, [Miseré—St. Genevieve] belonging to the Spaniards. The town of

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J13. This is a copy; the original is lacking. The following note precedes the copy: "Copy of an old and much decayed letter of Gen! G. R. Clark, written plainly in the summer or fall of 1777, and very likely addressed to Gov<sup>t</sup> Pat<sup>t</sup> Henry. It is transcribed as fully as could be done—as the original has been wet, and is much worn and faded. L. C. D[aper].". In his Memoir Clark states that he communicated his views to Patrick Henry, December 10, 1777: English, *Conquest of the Northwest*, I. 468.

Kuskuskies contains about one hundred families of French and English, and carry on an extensive trade with the Indians ; and they have a considerable number of negroes that bear arms and are chiefly employed in managing their farms that lay around the town, and send a considerable quantity of flour and other commodities to New Orleans, [“ which they barter every year, and get the return in goods up the Mississippi,” erased]. The houses are framed and very good, with a small but elegant stone fort<sup>1</sup> situated [but a little distance from] the centre of the town. The Mississippi is undermining a part of Fort Chartress ; the garrison was removed to this place, which greatly added to its wealth ; but on the commencement of the present war, the troops [were] called off to reinforce Detroit, which is about three hundred miles from it — leaving the fort and all its stores in care of one *Roseblack*<sup>2</sup> as comd<sup>t</sup> of the place, with instructions to influence as many Indians as possible to invade the Colonies ; and to supply Detroit with provisions, a considerable quantity of which goes by the way of the Waubash R., and have but a short land carriage to the waters of the [Miami].

In June last I sent two young men there : They<sup>3</sup> [Rocheblave and the French] seemed to be under no apprehension of danger from the [Americans.] The fort, which stands a small distance below the town is built of stockading about ten feet high, with blockhouses at each corner, with several pieces of cannon mounted [“ 10,000 lbs ” erased] powder, ball and all other necessary stores without [any] guard or a single soldier.<sup>4</sup> Roseblack, who acted as Governor, by large presents engaged the Waubash Indians to invade the frontiers of Kentucky, was daily treating with other Nations, giving large presents and offering them great rewards for scalps. The principal inhabitants are entirely against the American cause, and look on us as notorious rebels that ought to be subdued at any rate, but I dont doubt but after being acquainted with the cause they would become good friends to it. The remote situation of this town on the back of several of the Western Nations ; their being well

<sup>1</sup> The location of this fort has been in controversy. See Winsor, *Narrative and Critical History of America*, VI. 719, n. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Philippe de Rocheblave. His account of the situation in Kaskaskia, and information on his career may be obtained from the following documents : Mason, *Philippe de Rocheblave*, Fergus Historical Series, No. 34; *Chicago Historical Society Collections*, IV.; *Michigan Pioneer Collections*, IX. 350; *Report on Canadian Archives*, 1883, pp. 75, 76, 82; 1886, 461, 552, 672. Note also the references to Philippe de Rocheblave in *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, III. 213, 215; VII. 132.

<sup>3</sup> See English, I. 467, 580.

<sup>4</sup> De Peyster, at Michilimacinac, June 27, 1779, writes : “ The Kaskaskias no way fortified ; the fort being still a sorry pinchetted enclosure round the Jesuits’ college,” Winsor, *America*, VI. 720. Carleton wrote under date of Sept. 15, 1777 (*Mich. Pioneer Colls.*, IX. 350), that the troops were withdrawn from the Illinois to avoid unnecessary expense and that Rocheblave’s salary was granted to him, “ to have an eye to the King’s Interests in these Parts, and to advise Government of whatever might be carrying on against them, this is all the service required of him.” Haldimand informed Sir H. Clinton, Nov. 10, 1778, that he had desired to have seven companies of the Fourteenth Regiment sent to the Illinois, but it was determined to retire these companies (Draper MSS., 58J2).

supplied with goods on the Mississippi, enables them [“to carry” erased] to furnish the different Nations [“with goods” erased], and by presents will keep up a strict friendship with the Indians; and undoubtedly will keep all the Nations that lay under their influence at war with us during the present contest, without they are induced to submission; [“that being situated above the mouth of the Ohio,” erased] they will be able to interrupt any communication that we should want to hold up and down the Mississippi, without a strong guard; having plenty of swivels they might, and I dont doubt but would keep armed boats for the purpose of taking our property. On the contrary, if it was in our possession it would distress the garrison at Detroit for provisions, it would fling the command of the two great rivers into our hands, which would enable us to get supplies of goods from the Spaniards, and to carry on a trade with the Indians [a line obliterated] them might perhaps with such small presents keep them our friends.<sup>1</sup>

I have always thought the town of Kuskuskies to be a place worthy of our attention, and have been at some pains to make myself acquainted with its force, situation and strength. I cant suppose that they could at any [day — time — rate — hour?] raise more than six [or seven] hundred armed men, the chief of them [are French — the British at Detroit being at so great a] distance, so that they more than

An expedition against [Kaskaskia would be advantageous] seeing one would be attended with so little expense — The men might be easily raised with little inconvenience Boats and canoes with about forty days provisions would [answer] them: they might in a few days run down the river with certainty [to the] Waubash, when they would only have about five to march to the town, with very little danger of being discovered until almost within sight, where they might go in the night; if they got wind [of us they might] make no resistance; if [they did,] and were able to beat us in the field, they could by no means defend themselves — for if they flew to the fort, they would loose possession of the town, where their provisions lay, and would sooner surrender than to try to beat us out of it with the cannon from the fort, as [they] would be sensible that should [we fire] it before we left it, which would reduce them to the certainty of leaving the country or starving with their families, as they could get nothing to eat.

Was I to undertake an expedition of this sort, and had authority from Government to raise my own men, and fit myself out without [much delay], I should make no doubt of being in [full possession of the country] by April next.

I am sensible that the case stands thus — that [we must] either take the town of Kuskuskies, or in less than a twelve month send an army

<sup>1</sup> Gautier's Journal covering the winter and spring of 1777-1778 (*Wisconsin Historical Collections*, XI. 100) shows that considerable numbers of Indians of Wisconsin and Northern Illinois were already disaffected to the British by the messages of the “Bostonniers,” or Americans. Compare Winsor, *Westward Movement*, 113, for evidence of Kickapoo disaffection. Clark's negotiations with the Indians of this section were doubtless facilitated by these facts.

against the Indians on Wabash, which will cost ten times as much, and not be of half the service.

II. PATRICK HENRY TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>1</sup>

W<sup>m</sup>sBURGH Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir

Col<sup>o</sup> David Rogers<sup>2</sup> is to go to New Orleans on the Business of Trade I mentioned to you, and I have opened the secret Nature of your Expedition to him as it was necessary for his Safety. I wish I had known of his being acquainted with all the places you are going to. He is intimately acquainted in all that country having been often times through every place there and can give you valuable Intelligence and Advice. I wish you to avail yourself of his Counsel and proceed as you find the Interest of your Country directs when you get to the place you are going to. What I have in view is, that your Operations should not be confin'd to the Fort and the Settlement at the place mention'd in your Secret Instructions, but that you proceed to the Enemys Settlements above or across, as you may find it proper.<sup>3</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup> Rogers will be in Danger as he comes up the River Homewards unless he can fall in with your party and return with them. If you should return before he does, leave a Company of 50 men under a good Officer somewhere down Ohio or wherever the Col<sup>o</sup> shall direct to escort him Home with his Cargo. This is a Matter of Consequence and I hope will not fail, as the Danger otherwise about the lower parts of Ohio will be great.<sup>4</sup> I am

Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> mo. hble Servant

P. HENRY

[*Superscription:*] Col<sup>o</sup> George Rogers Clark far<sup>d</sup> by Col<sup>o</sup> Rogers.

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J17.

<sup>2</sup> Governor Henry wrote, January 14, 1778, to the Governor at New Orleans to the effect that his messenger, Colonel David Rogers, would receive commands with reference to common action on the Mississippi. Governor Henry suggests as desirable the annexing of West Florida to the American Confederacy, and informs the Spanish governor that he has thought it necessary to build a fort near the mouth of the Ohio, but "that shall depend on what your excellency shall please to write me on the subject." He further asks a loan of 150,000 pistoles to Virginia. Colonel Rogers was to receive the goods said to be lodged at New Orleans for Virginia. Rogers's letter to Henry, October 4, 1778, describes his reception. This and Galvez's reply to Henry are in Draper MSS., 58J, 84-91, 103, 108, being copies from the Carleton papers. Colonel Rogers was killed by the Indians while returning with the goods, a little above Licking Creek on the Ohio (English, I. 554; Roosevelt, II. 136), and his papers fell into the British hands.

<sup>3</sup> This probably refers to Vincennes and possibly to Detroit. Compare English, I. 412.

<sup>4</sup> George Rogers Clark, February 3, 1779, wrote to Governor Henry of his projected expedition against Vincennes, and of the arrangements he had made for the galley to join Colonel Rogers on the Mississippi if his attack failed. See English, I. 262, 263.

III. PATRICK HENRY TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>1</sup>W<sup>m</sup>s BURGH Janry 24<sup>th</sup> 1778.*Sir*

Being just now informed that you had given a Commission, with recruiting Instructions to some Person as low down as the County of Amelia, to enlist men for the Service which you are appointed to command, I am under a Necessity of expressing my Concern at your Conduct, well knowing that men inhabiting that part of the Country are by no means proper to be employ'd on the Expedition which you are to direct, indeed you must certainly remember that you inform'd me, that you expected to get men enough to compleat the seven Companies, partly at Kentuck and partly within the Carolina line, and that if you shou'd fail in your Expectation, any Deficiency cou'd easily be made up in the frontier Counties in the neighborhood of Fort Pitt the South Branch and the Frontiers: I must therefore desire You to pursue your first Intentions, for by enlisting any Men in the lower Counties You will not only procure improper Persons, but you may also throw those Counties into great Confusion respecting the Act of Assembly passed this Session for recruiting the Continental Army. The men you enlist will not be exempted from this Draught. I am Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

P. HENRY

Col<sup>o</sup> G. R. Clark.[*Superscription:*] To George Rogers Clark Esq. supposed to be at Fort Pitt.IV. MAJOR W. B. SMITH TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>2</sup>HOLSTON RIVER 7<sup>th</sup> March 1778*Dear Col<sup>o</sup>*

It has never bin in my power to informe you of my proceedings Since I left Williamsburg till now this day I fitted of A Company of forty four men to kintuckey under the Command of Cap<sup>t</sup> Thomas Dillard all of which are well fix<sup>d</sup> young harty fellows—three Companies moore<sup>2</sup> I Expect to be ready to March from this the Twentieth of this Instant provisions in this Quarter is Very Scarce and I Expect to sink more [than] three hundred pound in fitting them off Corne from Seven an<sup>d</sup> Sixpenc. to too dollar p<sup>r</sup> bushel and bacon Seven pound ten a hundred—and Scarce to be had—you may Depend on my being as indus- terous as in my power lies—a few days ago there Came an Express from kentuckey here and informed me of Capt. Daniel Boone with Twenty

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J18.<sup>2</sup> Draper MSS., 48J19. Clark writes in his Memoirs (English, I. 469): "I ad- vanced to Major William B. Smith £ 150, to recruit men on Holston, and to meet me in Kentucky (He never joined me)." For Clark's statements of his disappointment in failing to receive these four companies, and for the desertion of part of Dillard's com- pany after the announcement of the destination of the expedition see English, I. 414, 469, 471. Clark received this letter March 29.

eight men being taken prisoners from the Salt licks on licking Creek, with out Sheding one drop of blood. This is all the news I have to Informe you of part of which I am sorry for — The barure of this to you is a Soldier in Dillards Company — I hope Sir you will provide him a Gun as he is with out —

I have nothing moore to informe You of at this Time in hopes you will Excuse me for not Complying with your orders sooner as it was not in my power before — I am Dear Sir —

Yours for Ever god bless  
You

To Col<sup>o</sup> Goorg R Clark

W<sup>m</sup> BAILEY SMITH

v. MAJOR W. B. SMITH TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>1</sup>

HOLSTON RIVER 29<sup>th</sup> March 1778

Dear Col<sup>o</sup>:

I wrote you from this quarter to Fort pitt — informing you I should be out at kentuckey by the 20. day of April but sir I am under the Neces-  
saty of informing you it is out of my power to meet you according to the Time I appointed You must no Sir I have failed in gethering my troops According to Expectatation I had all the Suckcess in the world before the draught<sup>2</sup> Came on — and the Arival of Squire Boone in this quarter which informed the Inhabitant[s] of Daniel Boone with 27 Men being taken prisoners from the Salt Springs on licking creek these infurnal reports has turned back. too Companies of Men — that was on ther March th[r]ough the Mountains and I must of cours wate here till I Recruite others — the county Lieut<sup>t</sup> in this quarter gives me but small incouridgment — tho I dont in the least despair but I Shall make my Companies Compleet — after wating hire. Some time I, have officers now in the differant sets. that are yousing — there utmost indeavour in that business and you may Rely on my doing doing every thing for you in my power in this business — I have but one Company yet march<sup>d</sup> which are Stationd at Boonsborough: Commanded by Col<sup>o</sup> John Donalson from pittsylvania and Col Dillard as first Lieutenant — thirty Moore are now on there march — and the rest I am deturmd to have gethered before I leave this if possible — I have nothing Moore to say on this Scoore. etc — but if you have not retired to Dranings Lick<sup>3</sup> I would give it as my opinion you had better make the place of Rondavous at the big bone lick where I am informd there will be a garrison arected — as soon as Col<sup>o</sup> Bowman Can get out — which will be as Convenient to me as if we meet at Dranings Lick — be it as it will Sir, I hope you will send letters to Boonsborough as soone as you arive as I may know where to

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J20.

<sup>2</sup> Compare Henry's letter to Clark, No. II., *ante*.

<sup>3</sup> Drinon's Lick near the Kentucky River. See also English, I. 558. Bowman mentions that the expedition landed salt kettles at the mouth of the Kentucky en route to the Falls.

march to on my arival in that quarter — Col<sup>o</sup> Bowman I Expect will send and Express to as Soone as he gits out — I am Dear Col<sup>o</sup>

Yours for Ever god bless you —

W<sup>m</sup> BAILEY SMITH

VI. JOHN CAMPBELL TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>1</sup>

PITTSBURGH June 8<sup>th</sup> 1778

*Gentlemen*

As the Opportunitys from the Seat of War and Congress into your Country is so very seldom and the late Accounts from Europe are so interesting I can not refrain from communicating them to you tho I am necessitated to be concise the bounds of a letter not admiting of any thing more

The 26<sup>th</sup> of May last we Celebrated the Joyfull News here with the Discharge of Thirteen Pieces of Canon and a Tripple discharge of Musquetry

On or about Christmas Eve last Two Treatys were concluded between the Plenepotentiarys of the United States of America and The French King whereby the French King cedes all North America and the Bermudas Islands to the United States of America and declares their Independence will Trade with them and protect their Trade The Americans are under no Restrictions whatever except they shall not return to their Dependance On Great Brittain these matters are made known to the British Court by the French Ambassadore the Consequence is that Brittain has recalled ther Ambassador from France and Ordered theirs Home. Therefore we daylay expect to hear of War being Declared between the two powers and consequently We must assist France. Lord North has moved for Conciliatory Methods with America and two Acts of Parliment are passed one Suspending several Acts of Parliment or rather explaining the right of Taxation in America and the Other Appointing Commissioners to Treat with the Americans both of Which according to the Way they are now understood by Us will be rejected with the Contempt they deserve.

General How is said to be on the Wing from Philadelphia and I hope to have the pleasure of informing you soon that there is not a British Soldier except Prisoners on any part of the Continent of America. M<sup>r</sup> Wells is just waiting he can inform you of some of the particulars of these Glad Tidings to whom I must refer you and am

Your Hum<sup>l</sup> Servt.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

[*Superscription :*] Col. George Rogers Clark In His Absence to the Inhabitants of Kentuckey.

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J22. This is doubtless the letter mentioned by Clark in his Memoir (English, I. 474) where he speaks of his hope of attaching the Illinois French to the American interest, and adds, "fortunately I had just received a letter from Colonel Campbell, dated Pittsburg, informing me of the contents of the treaties between France and America."

VII. CESIRRE TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>1</sup>*Monsieur*

Les travaux De naux Res Colte Mond enpaichez Davoir honneur De vous aller faire Maresverance Et Moblige de vous Envoiez Par un autre Macommition chause que Jaures Este flatte Defaire Mois Maime Jes Paire au Plus taux quil Me Sera Possible Deme rendre a Mondevoir Je Crois que vous vous deres Bien Mes Cusere un Peux Etgand Esposez Mes Raison au Cappitaine qui Est venud ice Jenes Rien Denouvaux avous Marque que de Me Croire avec tous Le Res Pec Possible

au Kashaux le

Monsieur

Votres humbles

10 Juliette

Obeisand Serviteur

1778—

CESIRRE

[*Superscription* :] Monsieur Monsieur Colonel Gorge Rogers Clark Commandand enChéf Des Illinois pour les Etat unis De la Merique au Kaskaskias

[Translation.]

*Sir*

The labor Of our Harvest hinders Me from having the honor Of going to express to you My reverence and obliges Me to [have] Sent from you By another person My commission a Thing which I had hoped To do My Self. I Hope at Least that it Will be Possible for Me To perform My duty, I Believe that you will Certainly excuse Me in a Small measure when My reasons are Explained to the Cappitaine who came from here I have Nothing New to inform you of only Believe Me with all Possible Respect

Sir

Your humble Obedient Servant

CESIRRE

At the Kashaux

the 10 July 1778

[*Superscription* :] Colonel George Rogers Clark Commander in Chief of The Illinois for the united States of America at the Kaskaskias.

VIII. CERRÉ TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>2</sup>*Monsieur*

Jai été extremement mortifié de ne mêtre pas trouvé en mon domicile lors de votre arrivée aux Caskakias

Jaurias eu L'honneur de vous donner des preuves de mon Entiere Soumission a mes Superieurs mais mon Etat etant dêtre marchand et par

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J23. The signature is a trifle difficult. There was a Joseph Cesire at Cahokia (Kashaux is Cohoes, or Cahokia). See *Illinois Historical Society Pubs.*, IV. 205. See the document X., *post*, where he is called captain. The document is chiefly remarkable for its French.

<sup>2</sup> Draper MSS., 48J24. Cerré was a principal merchant of Kaskaskia. Clark describes his dealings with him in his Memoir (English, I. 477, 478, 481, 484-7). Compare *Mich. Pioneer Colls.*, X. 294; IX. 484. Rocheblase desired that relief to his family after his capture should be transmitted by orders on Cerré (*Chi. Hist. So. Pubs.*, IV. 418). Paschal L. Cerré (born 1773) tells (Draper MSS., 8J51) that Clark peeped throngh the windows of the Cerré residence on the night of the capture of Kaskaskia, to the indignation of Mme. Cerré.

consequent obligé de voyager dans les differens postes de ces pays pour faire Subsister ma famille, ma mauvaise Etoile ou pour mieux dire lhabitude annuelle ou je Suis de commencer mes voyages dans ce temps ont causé mon malheur et Suivant le bruit public mes Ennemis Jaloux des peines que je me donne pour me procurer une heureuse mediocrité ont profité de mon absence pour me noircir et me metre mal dans lesprit des personnes dont je nai pas L'honneur dêtre connu bien persuadé que ma conduite passée et celle avenir vous etant connue une fois vous me rendrez la justice qui est due a tout bon Sujet Soumis Je Crains que dans le premier instant les faux raports de mes Ennemis ne portent quel quanteinte a ma fortune Seul objet de leur haine, dailleurs ayant entre les mains les affaires de defunt M<sup>r</sup> Viviat colloquées avec plusieurs personnes des Caskakias et qui demandent ma presence. Jose vous Suplier Monsieur devouloir bien maccorder un Sauve conduit pour me transporter en mon domicile afin quen vertu dcelui je puisse me laver des accusations que lon vous afait contremoy et vâquer aux affaires qui mappellent au dit lieu Cest lagrâce quespere de vous le Sujet le plus Soumisqui a Lhon- neur dêtre avec le plus profond respect

Monsieur

Votre tres humble et tres

obeissant Serviteur

CERRÉ

A S<sup>t</sup> Genevieve

le 11.<sup>e</sup> Juillet 1778

Monsieur G<sup>e</sup> Clark

[*On backing:*] Letters Inclosed in one Cover To Col<sup>o</sup> Clark July 11<sup>th</sup> 1778.

[Translation.]

*Monsieur*

I was extremely chagrined that I was not at home at the time of your arrival at Caskaskia. I would have had the honor of giving you proofs of my entire submission to my superiors But my profession being that of a merchant, and consequently obliged to travel to the different posts of this country to make a living for my family, My unlucky star, or to speak more correctly, the annual habit I am in of commencing my journeys at that time caused my misfortune.

According to public rumour my enemies jealous of the efforts I make to obtain a comfortable mediocrit, have profited by my absence, in order to blacken me and destroy me in the opinion of persons to whom I have not the honor of being known; well persuaded that my past conduct and that to come being once known to you, you will render me the justice that is due to every good and submissive subject.

I fear that in the first moment the false reports of my enemies may cause injury to my fortune, the only object of their hatred, besides having in my hands the affairs of the deceased Mr. Viviat to arrange with several persons of Kaskaskia and who require my presence.

I venture to solicit you Monsieur to have the goodness to grant me a passport to go home in order that I may be able to clear myself of the accusations that have been made to you against me, and attend to the

affairs that call me there. It is the favour that the most submissive subject hopes from you, and who has the honor of being with the most profound respect Monsieur your very humble and

very obedient Servant  
CERRE.

St. Genevieve  
11 July 1778  
Monsieur G<sup>e</sup> Clark.

IX. CESIRRE TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>1</sup>

*Monsieur*

Jes Resud Lonneurre de lavotre Et vous Suit infinemez obligé de la Bonte que vous nous Marquez et Jes Pairre que vous neseré Jamais Dans le Cas devous Repantire Devos nouveaux Suges Soiyez Persuadé que Jemetttere tous Cequiserá amonpouvoire Pour tenire Luniondans Lestas Jevous Pris Sy vous me faitte Lonneure de Mes Crrirre Daurenavay Demes Crire Enfrancois vud que Jenes persone qui Soid Capable de Minterprettre Jenes poind Denouvelle avous Marquere qui Meritte votre attantion M<sup>r</sup> lhommme Porteur Delapresante vous dira Cequi Sepase Jevous pris deme Croire avec tous Leres pec possible

Votres humb<sup>1</sup>

au Kashaux Obeisand Serviteur  
Ce 23, Juliette  
1778—

CESIRRE

[*Superscription* :] Monsieur — Monsieur George Rogers Clark Commandant Enchef Des Illinois pour Les Etat unit De la Merique Au Kaskaskias.

[*Translation*.]

*Sir*

I Received the letter you did me The honor to write And am infinitely obliged for the Favor that you Accord us and I hope that you will Never be In a Situation to Repent concerning your new Subjects Be Persuaded that I shall do all that is in my power To maintain union in The state I Beg you If you do me The honor of writing Me in the future To write to me in french since I have no one who Is capable of interpreting for Me I have nothing New to Inform you of that is Worthy of your attention The man who Carries This to you will tell you what is occurring I beg you to Believe me with all possible respect

Your humble Obedient Servant

CESIRRE

At the Kashaux July the 23 1778

[*Superscription* :] Mr. George Rogers Clark, Commander In chief of the Illinois for The united States Of America At the Kaskaskias.

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J25.

x. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK TO MESSRS. [?]<sup>1</sup>KASKASKIAS 24<sup>me</sup> Juilliet 1778*Messieurs*

Je recu ce matin vos Lettres des plaintes de chaque'un et je suis fachez de trouvez qu'il y'a des difficultie occassionez par de vue d'interets dans La commerce, par des individu parmi Les Savages si nuisible au Paix et tranq[uillité] de notre paiez J'espere Messieurs que vu pren-drai en consideration, que ce le devoir de chaq'un de nous de suprimmer Les insults des savages des une aux autres qu'enfin le desir de gagné n'occasion pas une Division parmi nous. Commes des gens Libre nous-avons Droit de faire une commerce Legitime sans etre Sujets aux insults d'un fier citoyen, Mais ni pas sur Les possessions on bien d'autres [sans leur] consentment, J'ai appris que Le voiture de Mons [MS. torn] etait sur Le Mississippi apré traitté, Si [MS. torn] comme une faut enver Monsieur M'Carty<sup>2</sup> il est oblige [de] repondre pour sa conduite. Monsieur M'Carty rendrai Les Butins de Monsieur Gagné, Mais pour L'aranger L'affaire ou Les dispute a L'amiable, Capt Cecire nommerai une personne pour agir avec Lui — au nomme de La republique et chaq'un des disputants, prendront deux personnes pour terminer Leures disputes par arbitration — une coppie de Leur decissions me serai envoye pour etre approuver et si je L'approuve sa sera final Je suis

Mess<sup>rs</sup>

Je Certifie La traduction cy dessus      Votres humble Serviteur  
 Juste et veritable selon L'intention      Signé  
 de celle ecrite en Englais par M<sup>r</sup> G :      G. R. CLARK  
 R : Clark Comm<sup>t</sup> des illinois etc  
 etca etca —

Hansen

[Translation.]

KASKASKIAS, July 24, 1778.

*Messrs.—*

I received this morning your Letters complaining of one another and I am sorry to find that there are difficulties occasioned by the consideration of commercial interests, by different persons among the Savages so hurtful to the Peace and tranquility of our country. I hope, sirs, that you will take it into consideration, that it is the duty of each one of us to suppress The insults of the savages toward any one [of us] and also that the desire for profit will not occasion a Division among us. As Free people we have Right to carry on a legitimate traffic without being subject to the insults of a proud citizen, But but none over The possessions or goods of others [without their] consent. I have learned that The Conveyance of Mons[ieur] [MS. torn] was on The Mississippi

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J26.

<sup>2</sup> This is probably the trader Richard McCarty, whose letter to DePeyster gave information of the capture of Kaskaskia (*Mich. Pioneer Colls.*, IX. 368). He afterwards accepted a captain's commission under the Americans. There are numerous letters from him in the Draper MSS. and in the *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, e. g., I. 379. Cf. English, I. 278.

after being treated. If [MS. torn] as a trespass against Monsieur McCarty he is obliged to answer for his conduct. Monsieur McCarty will return The Booty of Monsieur Gagné, But in order to arrange the affair or The dispute amicably Cap<sup>1</sup>. Cesire will name one person to act with Him in the name of The republic and each of the disputants, will take two persons to terminate Their disputes by arbitration—a copy of Their decisions will be sent me for approval and if I approve It that will be final

I am, Sirs,

Your humble Servant

(Signed) G. R. CLARK

I Certify The translation of the above [to be] Just and correct according to The intention of that written in English by Mr. G : R : Clark Comm<sup>1</sup> of the illinois etc. etc. etc.

Hansen

#### XI. PERRAULT TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>1</sup>

*Monsieur,*

Jeprends la liberté devous écrire au sujet d'un billet que J'ai consenti à l'ordre de M<sup>r</sup> De Rocheblave le 16. X.<sup>bre</sup> dernier dela somme de huit cent seize livres dix sols en pelleterie à compte duquel mon cher pere a payé sur un mandat que Cd<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup> a tiré en faveur de M<sup>r</sup> Pratte le 13. may 1778. la somme de sept cents livres en pelleterie comme vous pourez le voir par les pieces que Jai remiser au S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Brady

En outre il y a encore adduire la quantité de soixante cinq livres en pelleterie convenue avec M<sup>r</sup> de Rocheblave pour le ossailler<sup>2</sup> qui se sont trouvées dans le lard que je lui ai acheté.

J'ose esperer, Monsieur, de votre équité que vous voudrez bien endosser ces objets sur Cd<sup>t</sup> billet et charger quelqu'un de vos ordres pour recevoir le montant de cinquante et une livre dix sols qui restent duex.

J'ai l'honneur dêtre avec respect,  
Monsieur, Votre tres humble  
et très ob<sup>t</sup> Serviteur

A S<sup>r</sup> Louis le 23. Juillet 1778.

H. PERRAULT

À M<sup>r</sup> le Colonel Clark Commandant aux Cas.

[*Superscription :*] Monsieur Monsieur le Colonel Clark Commandant aux Caskaskias

[*Translation.*]

*Sir*

I take the liberty of writing you on the Subject of a note that I gave to the order of Mr. De Rocheblave December 16 last for the sum of eight hundred Sixteen livres ten Sols in peltry on which my dear father has paid At the demand of the said Gentleman, drawn in favor of Mr. Pratte May 13 1778 the Sum of Seven hundred livres in peltry as you may see by the receipts that I remit to Mr. Thomas Brady.

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J27. This is interesting in its information as to the kind of subjects presented to Clark.

<sup>2</sup> For *osselet*?

Besides there is still a deduction amounting to Sixty five livres in peltry agreed upon with Mr. de Rocheblave for the bones that were found in the pork that I bought of him.

I dare hope, Sir, that by reason of your equity you will certainly endorse these sums on the aforesaid note, and give some one your orders to receive the remaining fifty one livres ten Sols I have the honor of being with respect, sir, Your very humble and very obedient Servant

H. PERRAULT

At St. Louis the 23 July 1778

To Colonel Clark commanding at the Cas. [caskias]

[*Superscription :*] Colonel Clark Commander at the Caskaskias.

#### xii. WINSTON TO OFFICERS.<sup>1</sup>

*Sir*

I am to acquaint you that there is Something Incomprehensible a Carrying on in Town this night tis Suspected that Cerré<sup>2</sup> is this Night in Town [MS. illegible] of M<sup>r</sup>. Lé Chance this I give you from mere hearsay and the Maneouvres I See Slightly Carried on by the People in the Dark

I am Sir Yours and the States  
Truely Faithfull friend and  
Hum<sup>le</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

RICH<sup>o</sup> WINSTON.<sup>3</sup>

[*Superscription :*] To The Office of the Guard Fort Clark

#### xiii. MEMORANDUM BY GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>4</sup>

On our first taking possession of the Illinois in 1778 having no public money to advance, to the Commissaries Quartermasters etc I generally examined their Accounts and gave Bills of Exchange on Government for the amount this was the practice for some time but engrossing too much of my attention on business of greater moment to the public I complained of it and Cap<sup>t</sup> Shannon was appointed by Order of the Governor Conductor General etc I then had no further business with accounts in that department (nor knew very little about them) Purchases, Issues etc etc was then immediately under his direction for the payment of which he drew Bills on me and I countersigned [countersigned] them but never looked at his Accounts. I know that he was obliged sometimes to barter a good deal to procure necessaries as he had Orders to make use of every means to collect what Stores he could as we had by the expectation of the assistance of the Kentucky Malitia a designe of taking possession of Detroit what Posts I was at when I signed the Bills in contemplation I do not remember as I was too deeply engaged in my mili-

<sup>1</sup> Draper MSS., 48J28.

<sup>2</sup> See the letter from Cerré *ante*.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Winston was afterwards Todd's lieutenant.

<sup>4</sup> Draper MSS., 48J29. This illustrates the kind of difficulties which led to the contest between Clark and Virginia over his unsettled claims.

tary arrangements to think much of things that had at that time so little weight in the Scale of affairs: but a considerable time after I had made my final Settlement with Government 1783 M<sup>r</sup> Gratiott<sup>1</sup> as attorney in fact for Cap<sup>t</sup> Langtott<sup>2</sup> presented those Bills to me in richmond for payment I argued that it was Cap<sup>t</sup> Shannon's business to arrange them, nothing would do but the payment a Suit was ordered and brought forward by M<sup>r</sup> Tazwell not doubting but I should hereafter be rofunded I paid off the Bills on my return to Kentucky Cap<sup>t</sup> Shannon informed me that he should shortly make his final Settlement with Government when things would be arranged and that I was in no danger of suffering this was the case from time to time till he was sent Delegate and actually did settle and on his return did inform me that on my application to the assembly I would get paid for the large Bill the other he would settle for in lands if agreeable which [was agreed to] and wrote a letter explaining the nature of the large Bill which I sent with a Petition to my brother of Spotsylvania to present to the assembly which he twice did to no purpose Col<sup>o</sup> Thruston brought the enclosed to me which I got from him last spring which shows that Cap<sup>t</sup> Shannon Settled for those Bills with the State of Virginia, those and similar circumstances hath prolonged this business to the present pereod—The whole of the Staff was then under his derection however complicated this may appear I have paid this money and for which I have rec<sup>d</sup> no satisfaction—Dec 3<sup>d</sup> 1794.

G. R. CLARK

XIV. JOS. BOWMAN TO GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.<sup>3</sup>

KAHOKAI<sup>4</sup> October 30<sup>th</sup> 1778.

Dear Col<sup>o</sup>:

Inclosed you<sup>r</sup> Receive two Letters from Denow which I made free to open In order to compair them and another from the said person to a Certain Gentleman together, which treated upon one subject, but at a great Advearance [sic] In your letters I find you are still Incouraged about Receiving your Horses whearin it mentions of their only waiting upon one Nation of Indians, whome they had sent for other ways they wood have Returnd by this time with the Horses — in the other Gentleman's Letter they say that they have yet five Horses — besides the six they have sent, and Desire<sup>s</sup> that he will purchace six or seven Hogheads of Taffee more with the Greatist safty; as the Expence they have already against State amounts to fifteen Hundred Livers.

I have sent you by Cap<sup>ta</sup> Winston a half moon of Silver which I got out of the Continantle store, which seam<sup>d</sup> to have been Provided for officers. I have taken one for myself and some more yet Remaining. if they are wanting they Can be had at any time I likewise got five for

<sup>1</sup> Charles Gratiot. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, X. 239.

<sup>2</sup> Linctot. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI. 113.

<sup>3</sup> Draper MSS., 48J43. For the career of Major Joseph Bowman, brother of Colonel John Bowman, see English, I. 108 *et passim*. He was descended from George Bowman and a daughter of Joist Hite, the German pioneer of the Shenandoah Valley.

Indians but made Lite and not so compleat ; their has been some Indians of the sack<sup>1</sup> Nation here, which I despatched A few days ago with them caime one cheif and another of the Iwayo<sup>2</sup> Nation which had never been in, their complyance has not satisfyed me with a Regard to peace, as they confess<sup>4</sup> to me that their principal cheifs whear gone to Montreall to fight against the big Knife. I sent them off and gave A Kag of Rum and told them to go and hold a counsel with their Nation and give them choice which side to join with — Drinking their Health with the Rum.

My Compliments to the Gent<sup>a</sup> Officers, Includeing M<sup>r</sup> Camron

I am D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup> your most Obd<sup>r</sup> friend and Hle Sar<sup>r</sup>

Jo<sup>s</sup> BOWMAN.

[*Superscription :*] G. R. Clark Col<sup>r</sup> and Commander in Cheif of the Illinois Country Kuskuskia pr Cap<sup>th</sup> Winston

xv. JOHN BOWMAN TO [GEORGE ROGERS CLARK].<sup>3</sup>

HARRODSBURGH October 14<sup>th</sup> 1778.

Dear Sir

This day I Receved yours by W<sup>m</sup> Miers, and with deficuity I shall furnish him with a Horse to Ride to the Settlement on.

The Indians have Pushed us hard this Summer, I Shall onley Begin at the 7<sup>th</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup> when three Hundred and thirty Indians with 8 French Men Came to Boonesburg Raised a flag and Called for Cap<sup>r</sup> Boone who had Lately Came from them, and offred Terms of Peace to the Boonesburgh People. Hearing that the Indians Gladly Treated with you at the Illinois, gave them Reason to think that the Indians were Sincear ; two days being taken up in this Manner till they Became Quite fimeleyer with one another ; but finding the Boonesburgh People would not turn out, and having Col<sup>r</sup> Calloway Maj<sup>r</sup> Smith, Cap<sup>r</sup> Boone Cap<sup>r</sup> Buchanan, and their Subalterns Eight in Number, in the Lick, where they had their Table, (you Know the distance about 80 yards) the Indians Getting up, Blackfish made a long Speach, then gave the word go, Instantly a Signal Gun fired, the Indians fastened on the Eight men to take them off, the white People began to Dispute the Matter, tho unarm<sup>d</sup> and Broke Loose from the Indians though there were two and three Indians to one White Man. In Runing the above Distance upwards of 200 Guns fired from Each Side and yet Every man Escaped But Squire Boone, who was Badly wounded though not Mortally he got Safe to the fort. On this a hot Ingagement Insued for Nine days and Nights constant fire with out any Intermission. No More damage was Done however But one Killed and two wounded. The Indians then Dispersed to

<sup>1</sup> Sauk.

<sup>2</sup> Ioway?

<sup>3</sup> Draper MSS., 48J42.

<sup>4</sup> This is an interesting contribution to the explanation of this episode in the siege of Boonesburgh. See Thwaites, *Daniel Boone*, 161, 166, and *Ranck, Boonesborough*, Filson Club Publications, No. 16. On Colonel John Bowman, see English, index, *passim*.

the Defrent forts where they Still Remain in greate numbers and way laying our Hunters—General McIntosh who commands the Armey Intended against Detroyt, I understand Receved Instructions to Strike the Indians and not meddle with Detroite, For other Northern News I Refer you to the Gazettes I hearewith Send you. The Indians have Done More Damige in the Interior Settlements this Summer than Ever was Done in one Season before. Absolute Neadesysity obliges me to send Cap<sup>t</sup> Harrod for salt, that we May be Able to Lay up a Sufficient Quantity of Provision for the next Summer. I hope you will Send us one hundred Bushels for that Purpose, Send me an Accomp<sup>t</sup> of the Same and I will Send you the Money by Cap<sup>t</sup> Muntgomery in the Spring, Your Complyance in this Matter will Inable us to Keepe our ground ; if not — we Shall be oblige<sup>d</sup> to brake up for the want of Provision, for Neadesysity will Brake through stone walls — I was obliged to promis 6/P.<sup>r</sup> day to Every man that Returns with Cap<sup>t</sup> harrod that I sent. I Beg this as a favour to let Every Man of them have the value of forty Dolers in goods as May best Sute them and I will Pay it with the above.

I am Dear Sir your Hum<sup>le</sup> Serv!

N. B. Pray forward the —

JN<sup>o</sup> BOWMAN

News Papers to my Brother

after your Looking over them.

J. B.

We have ben Reinforce<sup>d</sup> from Washington County with Eighty Men but thir time is near out Before the[y] Come this Lenth so the[y] Return Imediately agane.

*2. A Letter from De Vergennes to LaFayette, 1780.*

THE following letter is among the unarranged and uncalendared records of the High Court of Admiralty at the Public Record Office in London. With the exception of the first and the last two paragraphs, the whole of the letter is in a numerical cipher, to which, apparently, no key exists. It is, however, the same cipher as that used in the three facsimile letters from LaFayette to De Vergennes which have been published by the late Mr. Stevens. From those three letters a tolerably complete key may be constructed ; and the few words which it leaves conjectural may be verified by the draft of the letter, which is at Paris, and appears to have escaped Mr. Stevens's notice. (See Paris, *Affaires Étrangères, Correspondance Politique, États-Unis, Tome 13, f. 247.*) No part of the draft is in cipher, and there are a few trifling differences between it and the cipher letter. "Le capitaine John" of the cipher is in the draft "le capitaine Jones," *i. e.*, Paul Jones. The cipher letter is signed by De Vergennes, and its envelope is addressed to "Monsieur le Marquis de la Fayette, Général Major au service des États Unis de l'Amérique Septentrionale. A l'armée de Wasington" [sic].